

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. These amendments to the claims only address the objections made in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-12, 15-17, 21-22, 25 and 26 remain pending.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 25 and the indication allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 15.

Claim Objections:

Claim 15 was objected to based on a specified informality which is overcome by amending the claim as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 25 was objected to for two reasons. With regard to the objection relating to line 25, "a second switch" is recited in line 9 and hence antecedent basis for "the second switch" in line 25 is already provided. Withdrawal of this objection is requested. With regard to the objection relating to lines 28-30, an amendment has been made that should clarify the objected to language. Thus, it is believed that this objection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1-2, 6, 11-12, 16-17, 21-22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Dunn (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,612). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102. The communication system of claim 1 includes first and second phones having a shared call appearance. It is believed that a "shared call appearance" is well understood in the telecommunication field as meaning phones that share a common address, i.e. typically a common telephone number. For example, normal analog first

and second telephones in a home connected to the same line will share a common call appearance, e.g. each receives incoming calls directed to the same telephone number and will both ring simultaneously in response to an incoming call. This meaning of a shared call appearance is further clarified in claim 1 where shared call appearances of the first and second phones are defined as meaning the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone.

Dunn is directed to integrated telephony and data services over a cable network. As illustrated by FIG. 3 of Dunn, an incoming telephone call on path 45 can be routed to a user in his office phone 36a in office 36 by PBX 36b, or this call can be forwarded to the user telephone 27 at home 35. Dunn makes numerous references to "forwarding" of calls over the PSTN in the data network. One of ordinary skill the art would understand the forwarding of calls as explained in Dunn as a traditional "call forwarding" routing of calls as is currently available and known in the public switched telephone network. For example, Dunn at column 5, lines 34-41 states:

Calls redirected to residential telephones 27 through path 1 above can be handled as a "simple" call forwarding service of the PSTN. Within the PSTN, calls rerouted through paths 2 and 3 above can be handled as simple call forwarding operations to a telephone number assigned to gateway 4; and in the cable network these operations can be carried forward (digitally) to the residence by gateway 41 and adapter 22.

As will be known to those skilled in the art, "call forwarding" is not the same as, nor equivalent to, a shared appearance. Consider the following example with regard to first and second phones. Assume that the first phone has a call forwarding feature enabled with the second phone being the destination. Upon an incoming call made to the directory number of the first phone, the telecommunication infrastructure equipment will determine that call forwarding is to be implemented for the first phone and that the second phone is the call forwarding destination. The call will be rerouted to the second phone with the following effect: the second phone will ring in response to the incoming call and the first phone will not ring. This result is substantially different than if the first and second phones have a shared call appearance. Assuming a shared call appearance, an incoming call to the first phone will cause both the first and second phones to ring substantially simultaneously, and the incoming call can be accepted at either the first or

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second phone by a user taking one of the phones off-hook, which will cause ringing at the other phone to cease.

Dunn makes no reference to a shared call appearance as required by claim 1. A search of the electronic text file of Dunn found no hits for the word "appearance". Further, the above quoted text from Dunn clarifies that the call routing as taught by Dunn is "call forwarding".

In the Office Action on page 4, second paragraph, with regard to the requirement of a shared call appearance in claim 1, it is stated,

"since incoming calls are redirected to telephones 27 via path ... and telephones 27 share the same telephone number ... therefore, the first telephone of telephones 27 must have a shared call appearance with the second telephone of telephones 27".

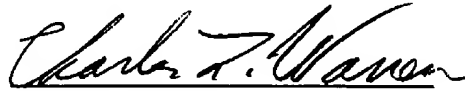
As explained above call forwarding will cause an incoming call to be redirected from one telephone to another telephone. However, such a redirection is not the same or equivalent to telephones having a shared call appearance. Thus, the conclusion reached in the Office Action that the telephones 27 must have a shared call appearance is incorrect. In fact, Dunn teaches that the rerouting of calls is indeed call forwarding, thereby removing any possible uncertainty about the type of call rerouting taught by this reference. Therefore, Dunn does not provide a teaching for phones with shared call appearances, and hence the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 is not supported by Dunn and should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 11 and 21 (independent claim 25 being allowed) are each believed to be allowable for similar reasons discussed for claim 1. All of the dependent claims should be allowable as depending from an allowable parent claim. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles L. Warren", is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: January 20, 2006

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